WRIA 13

SALMON RECOVERY

FUNDING BOARD

SCORING AND RANKING

PROCEDURE

2001-2002

WRIA 13 SCORING AND RANKING PROCEDURE
2001-2002

PROJECT RANKING PROCESS

All project ranking must be complete by November 30, 2001. The following details the committee process:

1. Citizen and Technical committees receive copies of project applications.

2. Both committees hear project presentations from project sponsors.

3. Both committees view video of project sites.

4. Technical Committee performs their project scoring. The Technical Committee uses the formula (below) that is based on benefit to salmonids. The committee will engage in round-table discussions before each member scores projects individually. Scores from each of the committee members will be averaged to determine the final scores and ranking that will be forwarded to the Citizen committee.

5. Technical Committee brings their scoring and ranking of projects to Citizen Committee.

6. Technical Committee and Citizen Committee discuss the scores and ranking of projects done by the Technical Committee. The two committees in concert will endorse or revise ranking to incorporate the other perspectives and social/political considerations in the watershed. The committees will document the rationale for any changes to the rankings of the projects performed by the Technical Committee.

7. The list of ranked projects will be submitted to the SRFB.

PROJECT SCORING

While an overriding conceptual framework is paramount to any salmon recovery strategy, some mechanism must also exist by which specific projects can be evaluated for their adequacy in meeting the salmon recovery objectives of the WRIA outlined *in* the strategy. Potential projects to be submitted for SRFB funding in WRIA 13 will therefore be examined for the anticipated salmonid response after the project has been implemented.

Briefly, the scoring methodology the Committees use addresses the 5 elements from the WRIA 13 Salmon Recovery Strategy:

1. **SUB-WATERSHED PRIORITIZATION WITHIN THE WRIA** (THE GEOGRAPHIC IMPORTANCE of the sub-basin where the project would occur). See Section 5.1.2.
   This is addressed as Weighting Factor 1**.**

2. **IDENTIFICATION OF ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PREVIOUS STUDIES** (how the project is rated as a key concern in its sub-basin) See Section 5.1.3.
   This is addressed as Weighting Factor 2.

3. **BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONALITY IN THE WRIA.** See Section 5.1.4.
   This is addressed in the scoring for 30 questions on Table 1.

4. **COMMUNITY SUPPORT.** See Section 5.1.5.
   This is addressed in the Citizen Committee review of projects.

5. **SPECIES PRIORITIES**. See Section 5.1.6.
   This is addressed in the scoring for each species for the questions on Table 1.

In addition, other elements are considered which consider the potential for success of the project (Certainty of Success and Functional Connectivity).

As can be surmised, high scoring projects will be interpreted through this scoring methodology to increase production of the WRIA 13 priority species significantly more than lower scoring projects.

Table 1 details the scoring template that will be used when examining projects for their biological functionality in supporting WRIA 13 priority species.

Each project proposal will be evaluated through the scoring template and a total score obtained from the following equation:

Total Project Score = (SS) x (WF1) x (WF2) x (WF3) x (WF4)

SS = sum of scores for each question (#1-30) on Table 1.

In addition to the biological functionality addressed by the questions in the project-scoring template (Table 1), the scores for each question reflect the species priority strategy for salmon recovery in WRIA 13.

Questions on Table 1 are answered Yes/No, then partial scores are assigned to indicate the extent to which function is provided.
The maximum scores for each species are:
Chum: 5
Coho: 5
Steelhead: 5
Cutthroat trout: 5
Chinook salmon: 3

WF 1 = Weighting Factor 1: Sub-watershed location

These geographic groupings reflect sub-watersheds and near-shore habitats, which exhibit certain characteristics (e.g. includes: resemble natural, fully functional aquatic ecosystems or support important native and/or wild salmonid populations, or overall productivity potential and importance for overall stock survival is high for these areas).

Group A sub-watersheds: WF 1 = 1.0 (Near-Shore, McLane, Deschutes mainstem and tributaries, Green Cove)

Group B sub-watersheds: WF 1 = .75 (Woodard and Woodland, Percival/Black Ditch,)

Group C sub-watersheds: WF 1 = .5 (all others)

WF 2 = Weighting Factor 2: How project addresses Prioritized Action Recommendations identified in studies of WRIA 13.

This weighting factor reflects how the project is rated as a key concern in its sub-basin by the best science/knowledge available at this time. Appendix A lists some of the studies that have been completed in WRIA 13 which identify key concerns.

High prioritization: WF 2 = 1.0
Medium prioritization: WF 2 = .8

Not identified as a key need: WF 2 = .6

WF 3 = Weighting Factor 3: Certainty of success

This weighting factor addresses:

- The scientific basis for success of this project type.
- The potential for the project sponsor to complete the project (includes such considerations as: whether the project can be completed at reasonable cost, within guidelines established, and/or whether necessary partnerships and other requirements are established to proceed with the project)

High certainty WF 3 = 1.0
Medium certainty WF 3 = .9
Low certainty WF 3 = .5

WF 4 = Weighting Factor 4:Functional Connectivity.

This weighting factor addresses whether the project will provide a linkage to currently functioning habitats, and/or habitat restoration/protection recently completed or in progress.

If the project has the above attributes:
WF 4 = 1.1

If the project does not have any of the above attributes:
WF 4 = 1.0

TABLE 1. PROJECT SCORING TEMPLATE WRIA 13

	HABITAT PATHWAY INDICATOR	CHINOOK	COHO	STEELHEAD	CHUM	CUTTHROAT	TOTAL SCORE
Hydrology							
1	project protects/preserves perennial stream or spring flows						
2	project restores perennial stream or spring flows (e.g., via water right trade)						
3	project functionally assesses spring or stream flows/velocity profiles (e.g., IFIM)						
4	project protects/restores dendritic channel network/hydrology in nearshore habitat						
5	project protects/restores channel morphology in stream channel						
Water Quality							
6	project protects/preserves estuarine mixing to provide for range of salinities						
7	project restores estuarine mixing to provide for range of salinities						
8	project would protect against water temperature increase						
9	project would restore habitat to yield lower temperatures over time						
10	project would restore natural nutrient levels						
11	project would assess water quality						
Habitat Quality							
12	project protects or promotes LWD retention						
13	project restores LWD densities in area where natural retention should exist						
14	project assesses LWD loading on basis of geomorphic constraints of stream						
15	project protects against spawning gravel scouring and/or embedding						
16	project restores spawning gravels to area where natural retention should exist						
17	project assesses spawning gravels						

HABITAT PATHWAY INDICATOR		CHINOOK	COHO	STEELHEAD	CHUM	CUTTHROAT	TOTAL SCORE
18	project protects/preserves erosion prone shoreline habitat (without armoring)						
19	project restores or stabilizes erosion-prone shoreline habitat (by natural means)						
20	project restores/protects near shore habitat used by prey species of salmonids						
21	project restores/protects near-shore substrate composition						
Habitat Access							
22	project protects juvenile and adult habitat access under all flows						
23	project restores juvenile access under high/mean/low flows						
24	project restores adult access under high/mean/low flows						
25	project assesses juvenile and adult habitat access						
Floodplain Connectivity							
26	project protects floodplain connectivity (e.g., acquisition of property in a CMZ)						
27	project restores floodplain connectivity (e.g., dike breaching)						
28	project assesses floodplain connectivity						
29	project protects riparian corridor						
30	project restores riparian corridor function						
31	project assesses riparian corridor function						
Grand Total							

APPENDIX A

Studies that have been completed in WRIA 13, which identify key concerns in the sub-basins studied:

1. Limiting Factors Analysis (WSCC, 1999)
2. Percival Creek Habitat Assessment (TCD, 2000)
3. McLane Creek Habitat Assessment (TCD, 2000)
4. Spurgeon Creek Fish Passage Barrier Assessment (TCD, 1999)
5. Private Lands Culvert Assessment (Thurston Conservation District, 2000)
6. WRIA 13 Refugia Study (TCD, 2000)
7. Thurston County Water Resources Monitoring Reports (Thurston County, Multi-Year)

TABLE 2 below is a composite of a prioritization of Limiting Factors Analysis findings, along with other studies completed within WRIA 13.

TABLE 2

WRIA 13 Salmonid Habitat Action Recommendations by Sub-basin		
R-Restoration, P-Protection/Acquisition, DG-Data Gap		
Project Priority within sub-basin	**Project Category**	**Priority Projects within Sub-basin**
		Estuarine and Nearshore*
High	DG	Conduct estuarine and nearshore assessment to identify priority habitat for protection and restoration (DG)
Medium	DG	Assess impacts of log rafting on estuarine habitat
Medium	DG	Assess impacts of heavy metals in sediments at the historic mothballed fleet site
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Deschutes River
		(Deschutes,13.0032, Chambers, 13.0034, 13.0036, Spurgeon, Offut Lake Outlet, Silver Springs, 13.0042, 13.0045, Reichel, 13.0047, Pipeline, 13.0052, Fall, 13.0066, Mitchell, Huckleberry, Johnson, Thurston, 13.0102.
High	R	Fix the Capitol Lake tide gate and fishway to allow adult fish passage at all tidal stages and lake levels
High	R, P	Protect and enhance high priority off-channel habitat

WRIA 13 Salmonid Habitat Action Recommendations by Sub-basin		
R-Restoration, P-Protection/Acquisition, DG-Data Gap		
Project Priority within sub-basin	**Project Category**	**Priority Projects within Sub-basin**
High	R	Develop and implement a short term LWD strategy.
Medium	DG, R	Address fine sediment and water quality problems in the lower river
High	DG	Conduct a Watershed Analysis in the upper watershed with particular focus on slope stability, road impacts and culverts
High	R	Restore riparian function (conifer, site potential tree height) throughout the watershed, including protection of the channel migration zone
High	P, R	Ensure that any bank protection projects maintain/restore channel and riparian functions
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		McLane Creek Watershed
		(McLane, Swift, Perkins, Cedar Flats, 13.0142, Beatty)
High	R	Restore riparian function to address temperature and LWD concerns
Medium	R	Develop and implement short term LWD strategy with emphasis on key pieces
Medium	DG, R	Identify and implement actions necessary to address fine sediment concerns
Medium	DG, R	Identify and prioritize fish passage barriers and correct if deemed necessary
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Green Cove Creek
High	P	Protect sensitive areas through purchase, conservation easements, or other non-regulatory or regulatory actions
High	R	Prioritize and restore functional riparian buffers throughout the drainage
Medium	R	Develop and implement short term LWD strategy.
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Percival Creek
		(Percival, Black Lake Ditch)

WRIA 13 Salmonid Habitat Action Recommendations by Sub-basin		
R-Restoration, P-Protection/Acquisition, DG-Data Gap		
Project Priority within sub-basin	**Project Category**	**Priority Projects within Sub-basin**
High	R	Address existing alterations to natural hydrology from stormwater runoff
High	R	Fix Capitol Lake tide gate and fishway to allow adult fish passage at all tidal stages and lake levels.
High	DG, R	Identify and correct adverse impacts to naturally produced adult and juvenile salmonids resulting from the Percival Cove screen
Medium	DG	Evaluate condition and production/restoration potential of instream habitat in upper watershed.
Medium	R, P	Protect riparian zones that are currently in good condition and restore riparian function in areas that have been degraded.
Medium	R	Replacement of Sapp Rd. Culvert
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Woodland Creek
		(Woodland, Fox Hollow, Jorgenson, Fox, Eagle)
High	R	Address existing alterations to natural hydrology from stormwater runoff
High	R	Prioritize and correct fish passage barriers
Medium	R	Identify and correct sites with unrestricted livestock access to the channel.
High	DG, R	Restore riparian function throughout watershed
Medium	DG	Evaluate fine sediment impacts and develop plan to restore substrate function if needed.
Medium	R	Develop and implement short term LWD strategy.
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Woodard Creek
High	R	Address existing alterations to natural hydrology from stormwater runoff
High	R	Identify and correct sites with unrestricted livestock access to the channel.
High	R	Preserve and restore headwater wetlands
High	DG, R	Restore riparian function throughout watershed

WRIA 13 Salmonid Habitat Action Recommendations by Sub-basin		
R-Restoration, P-Protection/Acquisition, DG-Data Gap		
Project Priority within sub-basin	**Project Category**	**Priority Projects within Sub-basin**
Medium	DG	Evaluate fine sediment impacts and develop plan to restore substrate function if needed.
Medium	R	Develop and implement short term LWD strategy.
Medium	R	Prioritize and correct fish passage barriers
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Ellis Creek
High	DG	Complete feasibility study for removal of fish passage barriers.
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Indian Creek
		(Indian & Moxlie)
High	DG	Evaluate production potential of streams in current and restored conditions.
High	R	Prioritize and correct fish passage barriers
Medium	DG, R	Identify and correct water quality problem sources
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Mill Bight (13.0001)
Medium	DG	Assess stock status and distribution
Medium	DG	Conduct habitat survey, including assessment of suitable habitat upstream of barrier culvert at 78th Ave. NE
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Dobbs Creek
Medium	DG	Assess stock status and distribution
Medium	DG	Conduct habitat survey
Medium	DG, R	Identify and correct water quality problems
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat

WRIA 13 Salmonid Habitat Action Recommendations by Sub-basin		
R-Restoration, P-Protection/Acquisition, DG-Data Gap		
Project Priority within sub-basin	**Project Category**	**Priority Projects within Sub-basin**
		Sleepy Creek (Libbey Creek)
Medium	DG	Assess stock status and distribution
Medium	DG	Conduct habitat survey
Medium	DG, R	Identify and correct water quality problems
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Fish Trap
High	DG	Assess salmon benefit for replacement of culvert on 81st Ave. NE
Medium	R	Fix culvert if deemed beneficial
Medium	DG	Assess stock status
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Adams Creek
		(Adams & 13.0021)
High	R	Prioritize and correct identified fish passage barriers
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Mission Creek
High	R	Prioritize and correct identified fish passage barriers
Medium	R	Restore functional riparian buffers upstream of Priest Point Park
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Schneider Creek
High	R	Restore and maintain functional riparian buffers, including increasing conifer cover
High	DG, R	Identify and implement actions to address fine sediment concerns
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat

WRIA 13 Salmonid Habitat Action Recommendations by Sub-basin		
R-Restoration, P-Protection/Acquisition, DG-Data Gap		
Project Priority within sub-basin	**Project Category**	**Priority Projects within Sub-basin**
		Unnamed 13.0135
Medium	DG	Assess stock status and distribution
Medium	DG	Conduct habitat survey
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Houston Creek
Medium	DG	Assess stock status and distribution
Medium	DG	Conduct habitat survey
High	P	Protection through acquisition/easement of high quality habitat
		Cross-watershed
Medium	DG	Assess the status and distribution of Cutthroat.
High	DG	Conduct inventory of culverts and other potential fish passage barriers on private lands (inventory already complete for County and State roads
Medium	DG	Conduct comprehensive assessment of riparian condition throughout WRIA 13
*Nearshore and estuarine habitats affect not only all of the species present in WRIA 13, but also the regional populations in South Puget Sound. It is a high priority to conduct a nearshore assessment to identify and prioritize future marine acquisition and restoration projects.		

NOTE: BY THEIR VERY NATURE, ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WOULD HAVE A LOW BENEFIT TO SALMONIDS WERE NOT IDENTIFIED IN THE HABITAT LIMITING FACTORS ANALYSIS REPORT FOR WRIA 13